(b) and (c) Measures contemplated to control the growth of population include incentives for sterilisation; education for promotion of spacing; enhancing community participation by setting up of popula[r] tion committees at State, District and Block levels; providing assistance to grass-root level voluntary organisations through Standing Committee on Voluntary Action; adopting improved communication approaches improving programme management and supervision by strengthening existing staffing pattern for direction and administration; improving quality of services by undertaking technical training programmes for medical and para-medieal ■workers; providing recanalisation services; enhancing child survival rates through Universal Immunisation Programme etc.

Antarctica Missions

477. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to stalls:

(a) the amount spent on Antarctica Missions during the last five years; and

(b) what are the details of the major thrusts and scientific advancement arising due to these Antarctica M:ssion$_s$ and what *R&D* use have the findings of these missions put to?

THE MINTSTER OF STATE TN THE MINTSTRY OF SCTENCE AND TECH-NOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE TN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMTC ENFRGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The expenditure incurred bv th$_R$ Department of Ocean Development during the last five years are as follows:

(Rs. crores)

3id	Expedition —	1983-84	5.70
4th	Expedition —	1984-85 .	6.20
5th	Expedition —	1985-86 .	5.75
6tr.	Expedition —	1986-87 .	5.12
7th	Expedition —	1987-88	6.20

(b) The scientific missions to Antarctica hav$_e$ generated a wealth of knowledge and informat.on about the icy continent in various disciplines of science such as geology, geophysics, meteorology, biology, oceanography, geomagnetism, atmospheric physics, etc. These expeditions have been responsible for the development of infra-structure and living and working facilities in the continent. More than 200 scientific papers in national and international journals have been published enabling lndia to have a highly Tespected position among the communiiy of nations engaged in polar research. The knowledge gained by our scientists about this continent and its resources enabled India to participate effectively in the finalisation of the negotiations on the Antarctica Minerals Regime adopted on 2nd June. 1988 in New Zealand. This Convention will regulate the exploitation of mineral resources in Antarctica at a later date and the countries which have continued presence in Antarctica stand to benefit.

Coutroi of Birth Rate

478. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE b$_e$ pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the birth rate has been stationary during the last five years inspite of the family welfare pro grammes;

(b) 'f so, wfiaf are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken bring down the birth rate in view of the ex plosive situation developing in the country with fast increasing population growth?

THE MINTSTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA)- (a) and *(b)* Annual estimates of birth rate are available from Sample Regis-tntion System of Registrar General, lndia. Accordng to the latest estimates available, the Birth Rate for the year 1987 is 32.0 (provisional) per thousand population and i; shows a steady decline from the Birth fate level of 33.7 for the year 1983.